

FRESNO, CA - In order to help combat juvenile crime in the Central Valley, Congressman Jim Costa announced today the 20th Congressional District will receive over \$200,000 in funds from the United States Department of Justice.

Fresno City and County will receive a total of \$218,649 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Representative Costa noted, "The Fresno City's Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) will benefit from this money since it will provide them with partial funding for two full-time truancy officers."

Fresno County's Juvenile Drug Court "Will be able to use the money to fund a therapeutically focused drug court program for minors who have been arrested for drug related crimes with no serious violence involved," the Fresno lawmaker explained.

Both programs are considered crucial to help prevent and reduce juvenile crime. "This funding will help law enforcement agencies become better equipped to help guide juvenile delinquents away from crime and towards more constructive activities," concluded Costa, "In addition, these programs are helping to build a safer community."